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SENATE BILL 810

By Harper

AN ACT relative to emergency services and to amend Tennessee  
Code Annotated, Section 29-20-310.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) This section applies to any paid person of a regularly constituted fire department in any municipality, city, county, or political subdivision within the state.

(b) A municipality, city, county, or political subdivision of the state may privatize fire protection or related services only if a majority of voters in the municipality, city, county, or political subdivision of the state authorize such action.

(c) The ballot of submission shall be in the following form:

Shall the [insert name of municipality, city, county, or political  
subdivision] contract with a private company for the provision  
of fire protection services?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(d) This section does not affect current contracts with private companies for the provision of fire protection services or related services in a municipality, city, county, or political subdivision which are in existence on the date this act is effective.

SECTION 2 . Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-20-310(b), is amended by adding the following language at the end of the section:

Firefighters, emergency medical technicians, firefighter emergency medical technicians, emergency medical technician paramedics, and firefighter emergency medical technician paramedics employed by local governments shall not be held personally liable for claims of malpractice arising out of their duties of employment; provided, however, nothing within this sentence shall be construed to relieve the governmental entity of any liability for medical malpractice pursuant to this chapter.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.